

Capsule Summary
SM-491
Park Pontiac
Lexington Park
Private

c. 1951

Park Pontiac is significant as one of the only Art Moderne style buildings in St. Mary's County. It is important as one of the earliest commercial buildings in Lexington Park that survives intact. Like the International style Aldridge Ford dealership to the east of this structure, the Park Pontiac building is well-preserved and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was originally designed.

In 1951, Dan Davis purchased a vacant tract of land on Great Mills Road from Harry and M. Leola Wise. In order to select a design for the new car dealership building, Mr. and Mrs. Davis drove around Baltimore looking for a model that they liked and wished to imitate. The model they selected was an Art Moderne style building unlike anything that had been built in St. Mary's County up until that time. Dan Davis hired architect Earl Howser to draw up blueprints. Materials for the construction of the building were purchased from the Johnson Lumber Company in Glen Burnie. The Loudon brothers were the local builders.

Dan Davis sold his business to Johnny Cheseldine in the early 1960s. Cheseldine, who had begun working at the dealership as the parts manager, initially rented the building from Davis. In 1963, Dan Davis sold the building to the corporation Park Pontiac, Inc. Since that time, the structure has been occupied by a series of car dealerships.

SM-491, Park Pontiac
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930 -.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Car dealership

Known Design Source: none

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. SM-491

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Park Pontiac

2. Location

street & number Route 246 (Great Mills Road) not for publication

city, town Lexington Park vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> X</u> building(s)	<u> X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> X</u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> X</u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Steven Baker and Alfred W. Gardiner

street & number 11 Lake Crest Drive telephone no.:

city, town Milford state and zip code DE 19963

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 448

street & number folio 412

city, town Leonardtown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-491

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Park Pontiac is located on the north side of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park in St. Mary's County, Maryland. This white, Art Moderne-style structure is situated on a hill in the center of the busy commercial section of Lexington Park. The exterior is unchanged since its date of construction. It is surrounded on all sides by an asphalt car lot. The building faces south.

Built around 1951, Park Pontiac is a one-story structure built of brick and concrete block. The roof is flat and appears to be covered with tar paper and asphalt.

The south (main) elevation consists of a rectangular showroom with curved corners that projects to the south away from the main block of the building. The showroom is pierced by a series of fourteen single-light windows that act as a curving curtain wall of glass. Above the windows projects a square molding that curves around the showroom facade. Above the projecting molding are letters which read "Lexington Park." To the west of the showroom is a two-bay garage pierced with garage doors. To the west of the garage is a shorter one-story wing with a curving facade that imitates that of the showroom. Most recently the service department, this office is pierced by a series of five single-light windows protected by a projecting molding that curves around the exterior wall.

The west elevation of the showroom is pierced by a glazed entrance door flanked on either side by glass panels. A large single-pane window is located above this three-bay entrance. The west side of the service department is pierced by a modern door and two single-light windows. To the north of the service office is an extension of the garage. This structure is pierced by a garage door, an entrance door with a single-light transom, and a twenty-four-light window.

The north elevation is pierced by four thirty-six-light windows.

The east elevation of the garage, like the west elevation, is pierced by a twenty-four-light window, a modern door, and a garage door. Between the garage and the showroom is a two-story section of the building which served as a storage space initially. The first floor is pierced by a six-light-over-three-panel door with a single-light transom, two three-light windows, and an eight-light window. The second floor is pierced by two eight-light windows. An exterior brick chimney stands against this section of the building. The showroom is pierced by a glazed entrance door with a single-light transom.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-491

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates None **Builder/Architect** Earl Howser; Louden Brothers

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Park Pontiac is significant as one of the only Art Moderne style buildings in St. Mary's County. It is important as one of the earliest commercial buildings in Lexington Park that survives intact. Like the International style Aldridge Ford dealership to the east of this structure, the Park Pontiac building is well-preserved and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was originally designed.

Prior to moving his business to Lexington Park, Dan Davis operated a car dealership in Chaptico. Between 1923 and 1951, he sold Nash, Plymouth, and then Chrysler automobiles. By the time he moved to Lexington Park, he was selling Pontiacs.

In 1951, Davis purchased a vacant tract of land on Great Mills Road from Harry and M. Leola Wise. In order to select a design for the new car dealership building, Mr. and Mrs. Davis drove around Baltimore looking for a model that they liked and wished to imitate. The model they selected was an Art Moderne style building unlike anything that had been built in St. Mary's County up until that time. Dan Davis hired architect Earl Howser to draw up blueprints. Materials for the construction of the building were purchased from the Johnson Lumber Company in Glen Burnie. The Louden brothers were the local builders.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-491

Davis, Erva Fish. Telephone Interview, May 1995.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.2063Quadrangle name Solomons IslandQuadrangle scale 1: 24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County DPZdate February 1995

street & number

telephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-491, Park Pontiac
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: Steven D. Baker and Alfred W. Gardiner, Jr.
FROM: Eastern Diversified Properties, Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 448, folio 412.
DATE: December 19, 1988.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: Eastern Diversified Properties, Inc.
FROM: Lexington Park General Partnership
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 422, folio 466.
DATE: May 26, 1988.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: Lewis Aldridge Sr., and Corinna Aldridge
FROM: Dave Pyles, Lincoln-Mercury, Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 133, folio 114.
DATE: December 30, 1982.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: Dave Pyles, Lincoln-Mercury, Inc.
FROM: Dave Pyles Motors, Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 92, folio 326.
DATE: January 8, 1981.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: Dave Pyles Motors, Inc.
FROM: William J. Cairns and Francine L. Cairns
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber DBK 226, folio 54.
DATE: March 10, 1975.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: William J. Cairns and Francine L. Cairns
FROM: Park Pontiac, Inc.
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 169, folio 23.
DATE: February 8, 1971.
NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: Park Pontiac, Inc.
FROM: Daniel H. Davis and Erva F. Davis
RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 110, folio 452.
DATE: November 18, 1963.

SM-491, Park Pontiac
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

NOTES: Transfer of 2.2063 acres.

TO: Daniel H. Davis and Erva F. Davis

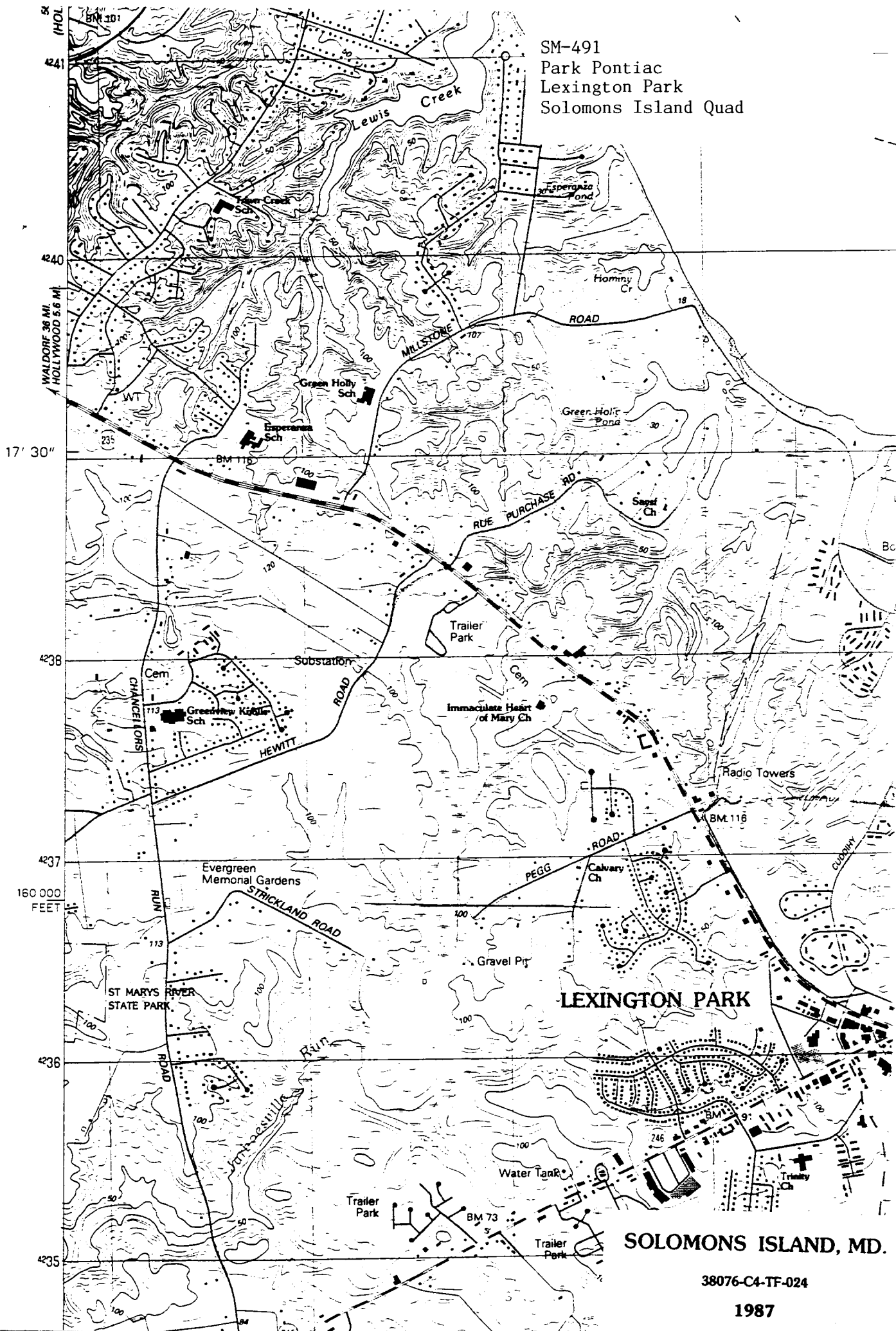
FROM: Harry P. Wise and M. Leola Wise, and M. Ethel Joy.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 27, folio 56.

DATE: October 18, 1950.

NOTES: Transfer of a tract on the north side of Great Mills Road between Lexington Park and Great Mills, being 2.2063 acres, a part of JMM 11/16.

SM-491
Park Pontiac
Lexington Park
Solomons Island Quad



SOLOMONS ISLAND, MD.

38076-C4-TF-024

1987





SM-191

Park Pontiac

St. Mary's County

E. Hughes

March 1995

MD SHPO

2/2

SE 21010132